

## Default Programs Applications in Windows 8.1

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Introduction: In Windows 8.1, the concept of default programs plays a crucial role in determining which applications open specific file types or protocols by default. This article aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of default programs in the Windows 8.1 environment and its significance for users. Additionally, we will explore practical examples and commands adapted for the Windows environment.

Examples:

### 1. Setting Default Programs via Control Panel:

- Open the Control Panel by searching for it in the Start menu.
- Click on "Programs" and then select "Default Programs".
- Choose "Set your default programs" to view a list of installed applications.
- Select the desired program and click on "Set this program as default" to associate it with specific file types.

### 2. Setting Default Programs via Settings:

- Press the Windows key + I to open the Settings app.
- Click on "Apps" and then select "Default apps".
- Under "Choose default apps," you can set default programs for various file types, protocols, and media playback.

### 3. Command-Line Method using PowerShell:

- Open PowerShell with administrative privileges.
- Use the following command to set a default program for a specific file extension:

```
$ext = ".txt"  
$progId = "txtfile"  
$shell = New-Object -ComObject WScript.Shell  
$shell.RegWrite("HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\FileExts\$ext\UserChoice", $progId, "REG_SZ")
```

Replace `$ext` with the desired file extension (e.g., ".txt") and `$progId` with the program's ProgID (e.g., "txtfile").

Conclusion: Understanding how to manage default programs in Windows 8.1 is essential for users to have control over which applications open specific file types or protocols by default. Whether through the Control Panel, Settings app, or PowerShell commands, users can easily associate their preferred programs with specific file extensions. By following the examples provided in this article, users can effectively customize their default program settings in the Windows 8.1 environment.